

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 200210Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2371

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JAKARTA 6110

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR,VS,ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIA AND ICCS

REF : SAIGON 6484

1. WE WELCOME SAIGON'S COMMENTS ON INDONESIA AND ICCS.

2. WE DO NOT DISCOUNT "TACTICAL" MOTIVE IN LATEST JAKARTA ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS RE ICCS. WE DO NOT DETECT SUBTLETIES IN LATEST GOI MOVE; ON BASIS COMMENTS PRESIDENT HAS PREVIOUSLY MADE TO WASHINGTON VISITORS WE INCLINED BELIEVE HE IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING WITHDRAWAL.

3. WE AGREE, ALSO, WE SHOULD NOT PAY INORDINATE PRICE FOR CONTINUING INDONESIAN ROLE. WE FEEL, ALSO, SUCH ROLE WILL BE OF LITTLE VALUE IF GOI NOT CONVINCED IT IS IN THEIR INTERESTS REMAIN. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON ASSUMPTION THAT ICCS REMAINS IMPORTANT TO OUR INDOCHINA POLICY AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FIND REPLACEMENT FOR INDONESIA.

4. USG ENCOURAGED INDONESIA TO TAKE ON THIS ROLE, BUT OUR FEELING HERE IN JAKARTA HAS BEEN THAT, IN RECENT MONTHS, AS ROLE HAS BECOME MORE DIFFICULT WE HAVEDONE LESS TO KEEP GOI INFORMED AND INVOLVED THAN AT OUTSET. WHILE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN TIMELY AND HELPFUL, WE DO NOT HAVE EXPERTISE AT POST CAPABLE OF FULL REVIEW

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OF OUR CURRENT THINKING ON FUTURE. HENCE SUGGESTION OF

WASHINGTON VISITORS. RECOMMENDATION OF LETTER FROM SECRETARY WAS NOT INTENDED TO SUGGEST INDONESIA EMBARK ON NEW DIPLOMACY BUT TO SUGGEST THAT PATTERN OF EARLIER HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS AND INTEREST ON THIS ISSUE HAD NOT CHANGED.

5. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND AMBASSADOR MARTIN'S RESERVATIONS ABOUT INDONESIAN DIPLOMATIC ROLE IN TANGLED VIETNAM PROBLEM. OUR COMMENT WAS LIMITED TO SUGGESTING THAT RATHER THAN PULL OUT, PERHAPS THERE WERE DIPLOMATIC MOVES WHICH INDONESIANS COULD TAKE TO BREAK ICCS STALEMATE. (WE HAD IN MIND, FOR EXAMPLE, FURTHER GOI DEMARCHES TO POLES AND HUNGARIANS.) I CONSIDER IT OF SOME VALUE TO PROPOSE TO OUR FRIENDS THAT, INSTEAD OF OPTING OUT IN TIME OF TROUBLE AND LEAVING IT TO US TO PICK UP THE PIECES, THEY MIGHT TAKE SOME CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS THEMSELVES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE TALKS, POLITICAL SITUATION, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JAKART06110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740124-0509
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740534/aaaabebt.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: SAIGON 6484
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDONESIA AND ICCS
TAGS: MARR, VS, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005